

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1 to 32 are subject to restriction under PCT Rule 13.1. With this amendment, claims 29 and 32 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0008] and [0028] of the application.

In the present Office Action, restriction is required between the following species:

- Species A:** Measurement of septal wall. Claims 1-23 and 28.
- Species B:** Measurement of spleen. Claims 24-27.
- Species C:** Measurement of left ventricle. Claim 29.
- Species D:** Classifying horses according to their racing abilities. Claims 30-31.
- Species E:** Rating heart images based on left ventricle properties. Claim 32.

According to the Action, the inventions do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because they allegedly lack the same or corresponding special technical features. In response to the Action, applicants hereby elect the claims of Species A while reserving the right to prosecute the claims of non-elected species in continuing applications. Applicants have amended claims 29 and 32 to be dependent on claim 1. Applicants believe that these claims, as amended, fall within the scope of Species A and request that they be examined with Species A. Claims 1-23, 28, 29, and 32 are united by a single special technical feature, *i.e.*, the step of obtaining a measurement of the width of the ventricular septal wall of a racehorse candidate and comparing the measurement to a collection of measurements from a group of horses, wherein said collection of measurements comprises ventricular septal wall width measurements for horses of about the same age, sex, and weight as said racehorse candidate. Claims 1-23, 28, 29, and 32 read on the elected species.

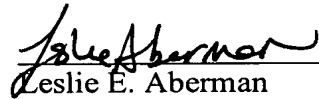
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number

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provided. Favorable consideration and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

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